

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of using a telephone identifying information to preserve state for applications over a telephone interface using a first computer, the method comprising:

identifying a user profile using the first computer and the telephone identifying information;

selecting a state associated with the user profile using the first computer, the state comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computers; and

~~based on a policy for a voice portal,~~ automatically providing a subset of the plurality of cookies to the application using the first computer, wherein the automatically providing is responsive to receiving a request over the telephone interface to initiate an application, and wherein the automatically providing comprises initiating the application on the first computer by interacting with the application using an IETF-compliant HTTP request to a second computer and including in the HTTP request at least one "Cookie:" header corresponding to at least one cookie in the subset of the plurality of cookies ~~and wherein the policy is dependent on needs of the application on the voice portal, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice portal, and second decisions made by users of the voice portal.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically providing is based on a policy for a voice portal, and comprises initiating the application on the first computer by retrieving the application using a HTTP request from a server and including in the HTTP request at least one "Cookie:" header corresponding to at least one cookie in the subset of the

plurality of cookies wherein the policy is dependent on needs of the application on the voice portal, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice portal, and second decisions made by users of the voice portal.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application has a corresponding uniform resource indicator (URI) and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies is selected according to applicability of each cookie in the plurality of cookies to the URI.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the applicability of a cookie for inclusion in the subset is determined according to IETF RFC 2109.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the applicability of a cookie for inclusion in the subset is determined according to policies in a state management standard.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a new cookie in the plurality of cookies, the new cookie received from the application as part of a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request for a uniform resource indicator (URI).

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the storing occurs responsive to verification of the new cookie by the first computer according to IETF RFC 2109.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the storing occurs responsive to verification of the new cookie by the first computer according to policies in a state management standard.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises verifying a password for the user profile received over the telephone interface prior to the selecting.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises creating a user profile on the first computer.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preserving state for applications over a telephone interface, the apparatus implemented with a first computer, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a telephone identifying information over the telephone interface;

means for identifying a user profile according to the telephone identifying information;

means for selecting a state associated with the user profile, the state comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computers; and

means for automatically providing a subset of the plurality of cookies to an application ~~based on a policy for a voice portal~~, wherein the means for automatically providing is responsive to receiving a request over the telephone interface to initiate an application, and wherein the means for automatically providing comprises means for initiating the application on the first computer by interacting with the application using an IETF-compliant HTTP request to a second computer, the HTTP request including at least one "Cookie:" header corresponding to at least one cookie in the subset of the plurality of cookies ~~and wherein the policy is dependent on needs of the application on the voice portal, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice portal, and second decisions made by users of the voice portal.~~

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus supports a second application, the application provided by a first legal entity and the second application provided by a second legal entity.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of cookies includes at least a first cookie set by the second application, and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies does not include the at least a first cookie.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system to preserve state for applications over a telephone interface, the computer system comprising:

an Internet interface including at least one program to access a second computer system ~~using one or more of a SSL protocol, a HTTP, and a HTTPS~~, the second computer system including an application;

a telephone interface to send and receive audio signals to and from ~~the~~ a telephone and to receive a telephone identifying information corresponding to the telephone; and

a control subsystem to control the Internet interface and the telephone interface, the control subsystem including at least one program for identifying a user profile according to the telephone identifying information, the user profile having a corresponding state, the state comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computer systems, ~~and based on a policy for the control subsystem automatically providing a subset of the plurality of cookies over the Internet interface when retrieving the application,~~ the control subsystem initiating the application on the first computer by interacting with the application using an IETF-compliant HTTP request to a second

computer system, the HTTP request including at least one
"Cookie:" header corresponding to at least one cookie in the
subset of the plurality of cookies ~~wherein the policy is~~
~~dependent on needs of the application on the control subsystem,~~
~~first decisions made by at least one operator of the control~~
~~subsystem, and second decisions made by users of the control~~
~~subsystem.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program for a first
computer, the computer program for preserving state for
applications over a telephone interface, the computer program
comprising:

a first set of instructions for receiving a telephone
identifying information from the telephone interface;

a second set of instructions for identifying a user profile
according to the telephone identifying information;

a third set of instructions for selecting a state
associated with the user profile, the state comprising a
plurality of cookies retrieved from other computers; and

a fourth set of instructions for automatically providing a
subset of the plurality of cookies to an application ~~based on a~~
~~policy for a voice portal,~~ the fourth set of instructions ~~the~~
~~providing responsive~~ responding to receiving a request over the
telephone interface to initiate an application, and initiating
the application on the first computer by interacting with the
application using an IETF-compliant HTTP request to a second
computer, the HTTP request including at least one "Cookie:"
header corresponding to at least one cookie in the subset of the
plurality of cookies ~~and wherein the policy is dependent on~~
~~needs of the application on the voice portal, first decisions~~
~~made by at least one operator of the voice portal, and second~~

~~decisions made by users of the voice portal.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the providing ~~comprises including the subset of the plurality of cookies as part of an HTTP request to retrieve the application from a computer system~~ is based on a policy for a voice portal, and wherein the policy is dependent on needs of the application on the voice portal, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice portal, and second decisions made by users of the voice portal.

17. (Original) The computer program of claim 16, wherein each cookie in the plurality of cookies associated with a corresponding domain, wherein the HTTP request include an HTTP request host and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies comprises each cookie in the plurality of cookies with a corresponding domain similar to the HTTP request host.

18. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the second set of instruction further comprises a set of instructions for creating a new user profile responsive to receiving telephone identifying information not associated with an existing user profile.

19. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the second set of instruction further comprises a set of instructions for creating a temporary user profile responsive to receiving telephone identifying information not associated with an existing user profile and wherein the computer program further comprises a fifth set of instructions for deleting the temporary user profile upon receiving a signal from the telephone interface signaling an end of a telephone call.